

Home Depot Donates Tools to Servicemembers in Iraq

The Secretary of the Army accepted a donation of \$500K worth of tools from the Home Depot Company. The donation was received at the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) and packaged for movement overseas.

The shipment of tools will go to several locations in Iraq during September.

The donated tools include drills, pliers, wrenches, trowels, post diggers, shovels, blue chalk, screwdrivers, circular saws, rope,

sawzalls, laser levels, wheelbarrows, vise grips, wood glue, worklights, tape, batteries, squares, socket sets, jigsaws, hoes, rakes, shovels, hacksaws, and cable cutters among other needed construction equipment.

Home Depot was one of 15 companies that received the 2004 Department of Defense (DoD) Employer Support Freedom Award. Earlier, the company donated \$1 million and a million employee volunteer hours to help the families of deployed

service members with home repairs and maintenance.

“This donation is part of The Home Depot’s long-standing commitment to the U.S. troops currently serving in Iraq,” said Bob Nardelli, Home Depot’s chairman, president and chief executive officer. “With more than 1,800 associates serving in the current military efforts, we have a special interest in making sure all of the U.S. troops know that we appreciate and support them.”

Employee’s Idea Reduces Risk at DDYJ

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka, Japan (DDYJ) already boasts one of the best safety records of the 23 Defense Distribution Center (DDC) depots world-wide-and they plan to keep it that way.

When an innovative DDYJ employee thought of a way to make the process of repositioning heavy gas cylinders safer and more efficient, DDYJ Commander CDR Kent Vredenburgh, SC, USN, was very supportive.

“Each of these cylinders weighs about 200 pounds, so the potential for injury, particularly back injury, while performing this task has been very real,” said CDR Vredenburgh.

DDYJ had an ongoing safety concern regarding the shipment of the gas cylinders via Air Mobility Command (AMC) because AMC requires that all gas cylinders be strapped to pallets in a vertical orientation. When the cylinders arrive at DDYJ from the vendor, they are stacked on the pallet horizontally, and this forced DDYJ employees to slide the heavy cylinders



The unique forklift (above left) was designed to meet DDYJ’s specific requirements and can pick up gas cylinders from a pallet, rotate them 90 degrees and set them back down on another pallet (above right). This repositioning, previously completed manually, was necessary to comply with Air Mobility Command requirements.



onto another pallet while pushing them into an upright position. “That was both physically demanding and time-consuming,” recalled James Morton, Supervisory Distribution Facilities Specialist at DDYJ.

Last Spring, Hiroyuki Harada, a Foreman Packer at DDYJ, had an idea to make the process safer and faster by designing new Materiel Handling Equipment (MHE)

that would rotate the cylinders.

Harada and his team worked closely with engineers from Nippon Yusoki Co., Ltd. of Kyoto, Japan, who created a unique forklift that would meet DDYJ’s specific requirements. “The forklift arrived at DDYJ in January 2004, and we have found it to be easy to use and safe to operate,” said CDR Vredenburgh.